

# **PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS ENROLLING NOW**

## **State Preschool, Head Start and Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)**

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### ***Attention: Parents, Foster Parents and Relative Caregivers of Preschool-Age Children***

Children who participate in high quality preschool programs are better ready to learn when they enter kindergarten and the effects of a high quality preschool program are often long lasting. Parents, foster parents, and relative caregivers are encouraged to enroll their three- and four-year-old children in late winter/early spring for classes beginning in August and September in the current year and ending in June of the following year. If interested, act fast as programs fill up!

### **California State Preschool Programs (CSSPs)**

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#### ***What is a California State Preschool Program?***

- **Free** part-day (3½ hours) comprehensive child development program.
- Generally operates from August through June or September through June.
- Serves three- to four-year-old children from low-income families residing in the local community.
- Priority given to families with open cases with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), as space is available.
- Provides free meals and snacks.
- Also, provides parent education and encourages parent participation.
- Refers families, as needed, to health and social services.

***\*\* Some CSPPs operate a full day for income-eligible parents needing to maintain employment, meet work participation requirements, or participate in education or job training.***

#### ***What will I need to enroll my child?***

- A copy of the child's original birth certificate.
- Child's current immunization record.
- Current address verification, such as utility bills.
- Documents to determine family size, such as birth certificates.
- Physician's Report Form provided by the State Preschool Program, indicating that the child has received a physical exam and is current with immunizations.

### **Head Start**

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#### ***What is Head Start?***

- **Free** part-day (at least 3½ hours) child development program for low-income and disabled preschoolers.
- Generally operates from September to June; some full-year programs are available.
- Serves three- to five-year-old children from low-income families residing in the local community, with priority given to four-year-olds.
- Priority given to families most in need, including families at risk and/or in crisis, and children with disabilities.
- Comprehensive services, including social services, health, mental health, nutrition and parent involvement.
- Families receiving public assistance and children in foster care are eligible even if their family income exceeds the guidelines.

***\*\* Some Head Start Programs operate a full day for income-eligible parents needing to maintain employment, meet work participation requirements, or participate in education or job training.***



### **What will I need?**

- A copy of the child's original birth certificate.
- Child's current immunization record with TB test.
- Documentation of child's disability, if applicable.
- Documentation of family at risk or in crisis (i.e. court referral, treatment center, etc.), if applicable.
- Evidence of family's annual income.
- Proof of current address.
- Current physical report from child's doctor.

## **Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)**

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### **What is LAUP?**

- Part-day (3½ hours) child development programs. (LAUP is **free** to families under the supervision of the County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation Department. Families not associated with DCFS or Probation may be required to pay an investment fee depending on their income and the program in which they enroll their child.)
- Generally operates from September to June; some offer summer programs as well.
- Serves four-year-old children regardless of family income.

*LAUP operates in existing child care and development programs, including publicly subsidized centers, private centers, faith-based programs, Head Starts, and family child care homes. Enrollment in some programs – State Preschool and Head Start – is limited to families that meet the eligibility factors described in the previous sections of this flyer.*

### **What will I need to enroll my child?**

In general, you will need to provide documents similar to those required for State Preschool and Head Start Programs. However, the required documents may vary based on the type of program for which you are eligible and wish to enroll your child.

## **How Do I find a Preschool Program?**

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To learn more about California State Preschool Programs, Head Start and LAUP and receive referrals to programs in your local community, contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (R&R). Visit the Office of Child Care website ([www.childcare.lacounty.gov](http://www.childcare.lacounty.gov)) and click on "Navigating the Child Care and Development System" for a map to help you select the R&R serving your community. R&Rs help families by providing referrals to an array of licensed child care and development programs for children from birth and up and by providing resources and referrals to low-income families eligible for child care subsidies. Be sure to ask for referrals to **California State Preschool, Head Start** and/or **LAUP** when you call. You may also receive referrals to Head Start Programs by calling, toll-free, 1-877-PRE-K-KID (773-5543) or locate an LAUP site by visiting their Web site at [www.laup.net](http://www.laup.net) or calling 1-866-581-LAUP (581-5287).

In addition to your local R&R, information on finding and selecting high quality child care and development services is available from the National Association for the Education of Young Children at [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org) and the National Association for Family Child Care at [www.nafcc.org](http://www.nafcc.org) or the Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) at [www.childcare.lacounty.gov](http://www.childcare.lacounty.gov).

We hope that you will take this opportunity to enroll your preschool age child in a free California State Preschool Program, Head Start Program or LAUP.

